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Message Text

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11
ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FRB-03

OMB-01 L-03 /044 R

DRAFTED BY EB/FTD:CANGEVINE:CSH
APPROVED BY EB/FTD:CANGEVINE
COMMERCE:AGAREL
ARA/CAR:CNORTON
LABOR:JHESTER
---------- 017820
R 170603Z JAN 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JM

SUBJECT: BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 148055

1. EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT GOJ HAS NEVER BEEN WILLING TO EXCHANGE NOTES BASED ON MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DISCUSSED REFTEL. JAMAICAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON IS NOW PRESSING FOR NEW CONSULTATIONS AND HAS REPORTED INTENT OF GOJ TO INVITE U.S. DELEGATION TO JAMAICA LATER THIS MONTH. WE HAVE INFORMED EMBASSY WE COULD NOT MEET IN JANUARY BUT WOULD LOOK INTO TIMING OF CONSULTATIONS AFTER FEBRUARY 4 INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEETING ON U.S. SMALL COUNTRY POLICY.

2. AS STATED REFTEL, AGGREGATE LEVEL OF NOW EXPIRED COTTON TEXTILE AGREEMENT WAS MUCH HIGHER THAN CURRENT LEVELS
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OF TRADE, AND WE UNDERSTAND JAMAICANS'OBJECTIVE IS TO

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OBTAIN FIRM ASSURANCES OF ABILITY TO SHIP AT LEVELS OF EXPIRED TEXTILE AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR EMBASSY TO DISCUSS REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH GOJ IN ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY JAMAICAN MOTIVATION. FOR EXAMPLE: TO WHAT EXTENT IS GOJ INTERESTED IN AGGREGATE FOR COTTON, AND TO WHAT EXTENT FOR MAN-MADE FIBER TEXTILES WHICH WERE NOT INCLUDED IN COTTON AGREEMENT? DOES GOJ WISH, IN ADDITION, LIMITS ON SPECIFIC CATEGORIES OF MAN-MADE OR COTTON FIBER TEXTILES.

3. WE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN ANY SIGNS THAT JAMAICA HAS ACTIVE PLANS TO EXPAND TEXTILE EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY APPAREL EXPORTS, TO U.S.

4. FYI U.S. HAS SOME CONCERN ABOUT IMPOSITIONS OF SPECIFIC RESTRAINTS IN ABSENCE OF SIGNIFICANT LEVEL OF TRADE, BUT HOPES FORTHCOMING INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEETING ON TEXTILE POLICY FOR SMALL COUNTRIES WILL RESULT IN CLEARER U.S. POSITION IN THIS REGARD. END FYI KISSINGER

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